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July 23, 2012

Dennis McLerran, Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10  
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900  
Seattle, WA 98101

RE: Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment

Dear Administrator McLerran:

I am writing to raise the issue of the timing of the public review and comment in your agency's recently released Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. We ask that EPA extend its public comment process by at least sixty days and work to ensure true and comprehensive Tribal consultations occur with all affected Alaska Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations.

Iliamna Natives Limited is the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Native Corporation located in Southwest-Alaska. INL has more than 77,000 acres of land. INL follows regulatory issues broadly affecting lands in Alaska, thus our interest in the Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. INL has not yet assessed the underlying merits of the Assessment in the short time allowed, and reserves the right to submit its comments on the merits.

We write because of view the time allowed for public comment is far too short for meaningful participation in the public process. The Assessment is more than 1200 pages; much of it is very technical. It is unfair to the public to have only sixty days to review and comment on a long and complicated document.

EPA is not allowing the process for meaningful consultation and review by the tribes and Alaska Native Corporations. EPA should follow a process like that recently announced by the Department of Interior, where the agency takes extra effort and time to ensure participation and consultation with Tribes and Native Corporations when the proposed governmental action may have a direct impact on our members and land.

For such an important issue that is affecting Alaska why would EPA hold its first public hearing in Seattle to address an Alaska issue? We believe that EPA should accommodate rural Alaska Natives and hold

hearings in the fall to allow those to focus on subsistence and commercial fishing during the short summer months.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (907) 571-7130.

Sincerely,

Lorene A. Anelon, President  
Iliamna Natives Limited